

REPORT NO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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7. A particular feature of the vessel is that it may be used as a tanker. Five oil-tight bulkheads, in addition to other installations required for this, are available. The vessel can carry about 1,000 tons of oil.***

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Comment. These careful specifications indicate that the Soviets try to improve their shipyard operations by employing German methods and experience, especially in welding. They may also indicate that the Soviets strive to make it possible for less efficient shipyards to build the vessel.

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* Comment. The designs for the machinery show engines of higher speed, which, along with the arrangement of two rudders, insure good maneuvering and steering qualities at such low rates of speed as two to four knots, which are required for cable work. Similar machinery was used in minesweepers of the German Navy during the war and proved successful. The second design requires fewer but better-qualified personnel.

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* Comment. This is a remarkable feature and permits the use of the vessel for naval purposes. A vessel which can be handled safely at a speed of two to four knots would be most suitable for refueling operations at sea, using its installations for stowing cable and cable work and the working space on deck for handling oil hoses and fueling operations. It cannot be determined whether such a cable-layer was or is being constructed by a Soviet or Soviet-controlled shipyard. For specifications and plans for the vessels (in original German), see Annex.

2 Annex: Two folders in German.

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